

Department of the Interior Medical Standards Program Oversight Group

To: DOI Fire Directors

From: DOI MSP Oversight Group

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Date: 9/26/14

Subject: DOI Wildland Fire Medical Standards

The following information is an update from the Department of the Interior Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program Oversight Group.

A national contract has been awarded to carryout medical qualification determination services for arduous duty wildland firefighters. The successful vendor is Comprehensive Health Services Inc. of Cape Canaveral, Florida. The new contract will provide physical exams, independent medical review qualification determinations, and health records management for arduous duty wildland firefighters employed by Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The contract can potentially provide the same services for Bureau of Land Management Communication Tower Climbers. With limited exceptions, exams will be provided within 50 miles of a Fire Unit location. There is also the capacity to bring exams on-site for rural locations or special circumstances.

Implementation of the new contract will be phased across agencies over three years. Major development activities leading up to the first phase of implementation include:

- Kick-off meeting with CHS: systems will be configured specifically to our needs.
- System Test: the system will be tested with 200 firefighters.
- Selection of Phased Group: Wildland Fire Safety Managers from all four Bureaus will be working in concert with the DOI MSP and the contractor to finalize the national phased implementation plan. CHS will ensure clinic capacity in phased areas.
- Implementation Phase 1: the anticipated capacity for calendar year 2015 is approximately 4,000 exams.

Further direction and technical assistance for those taking part in the first phase will be forthcoming. Unless otherwise directed, the current examination process should be maintained on a three-year periodicity. Guidance on the current DOI MSP process can be found here: http://www.nifc.gov/medical_standards

